



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 83<sup>d</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## An Inspiring Tribute to America's Immortal Patriot, Bob Taft

From His Devoted Friend,  
Gen. Julius Klein

### REMARKS

OF

HON. HOMER FERGUSON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Monday, August 3, 1953

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. President, I have in my hand a touching and moving statement made on the occasion of the death of our revered colleague, the late Senator ROBERT A. TAFT, by one of his closest friends of 20 years' standing, Brig. Gen. Julius Klein.

Next to his home State of Ohio, the late Senator TAFT's favorite middle-western State was Illinois. It is, therefore, only fitting that this account of his last moments be written by a man from Illinois who knew Senator TAFT intimately.

A friend of the distinguished father of our late Senator, William Howard Taft, Julius Klein has been a Taft follower for many years. Consultant on National Defense to the Republican National Committee and past national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Julius Klein had a distinguished record in World War II under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who praised him as one of the country's great citizen-soldiers, as did General Eisenhower.

Last year Klein was elected as a Taft delegate from the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois to the Republican national convention.

Traveling with Senator TAFT and assisting him, Julius Klein was of invaluable help to the late Senator in his eminently successful bid for reelection, as

he was when the Senator sought the Republican nomination in 1940, 1948, and 1952.

Julius Klein was at the hospital when Senator TAFT died. The minute the news was flashed he said:

BOB TAFT, like Lincoln, now belongs to the ages.

Many newspapers throughout the country reprinted this timely statement, but I do feel that its entire text should be preserved in the RECORD as a matter of historical interest.

### FULL TEXT OF GENERAL KLEIN'S STATEMENT AFTER TAFT'S PASSING

Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, of Chicago, released the following statement from the New York hospital when Senator TAFT died:

Just like Lincoln, BOB TAFT now belongs to the ages.

He further stated:

As a citizen, I join millions of other Americans in their sorrow over the loss of one of our greatest leaders, Senator TAFT. As an individual, I mourn the loss of a friend, teacher, and adviser.

The death of TAFT is a loss also to the Western World, and his guidance and counsel will be sorely missed in the development of policy and strategy to cope with the Kremlin.

When I saw BOB TAFT walking on crutches, he jokingly told me: "I wonder whether the job of the Majority Leader isn't a jinx. Senator White, of Maine, was the Majority Leader in 1946, and he died. Scott Lucas was defeated. McFarland was also defeated. Kenneth Wherry died, and you remember the Pat Harrison-Barkley fight."

Of course, the Senator laughed as he said it, for he didn't believe in the jinx. He was hoping to go abroad this month with his inseparable mate, Martha, to visit his son, Howard Taft, who is our Ambassador to Ireland.

TAFT was not given to making political speeches with high-flown phrases, nor to advertise the blessings of democracy every time he spoke. Yet he was dedicated to the American free system, a fact demonstrated most tellingly when he gave me some sound political advice. Early last year he urged me to seek election as a delegate to the 1952 national convention of the Republican Party. At that time, I was consultant on national defense to the GOP. "A man," he said, "who wants to represent his political party, should face the electorate and let the people decide whether he is qualified for the position as their spokesman."

I followed his advice, and was elected on the promise that I would vote for TAFT's nomination. I was always a TAFT supporter, because I was thoroughly convinced of all the high attributes which he possessed, and which will be mentioned now and in the next few days, in messages of condolence by the great leaders of our own Nation and of the countries in the entire free world, as well as in editorial columns throughout the globe, excepting only the papers published behind the Iron Curtain.

Above all, TAFT was a man of integrity, who did not play to the galleries. Popularity among the masses was not important to him, but uppermost in his mind was the future welfare of his country.

Millions of people have come to identify TAFT as "Mr. Republican," but those who knew TAFT personally as well as I did will agree that he deserved to be called "Mr. America."

TAFT was an intimate friend of mine for more than 20 years. I met him first in his father's house—his father, the former President, was the Chief Justice. I know of no man who was greater in defeat than BOB TAFT. He was truly a great public servant, always considerate. Even from his hospital bed, he wrote me a cordial note, which I shall treasure the rest of my life.

He demonstrated his great patriotism, statesmanship, courage, and love for his fellow man 24 hours of the day. Many people will speculate on what would have happened if TAFT had been elected President. I was

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close to him during all the convention. I was with him day and night in Chicago last year, and I know that he had hoped that Senator KNOWLAND would be his running mate. If not Senator KNOWLAND, perhaps Gen. Douglas MacArthur. And, if he had consented to run, perhaps even General Eisenhower. I am sure his diary or notes will show this some day.

I know he had a deep respect for General Eisenhower and was determined to unite the party and the country behind the man who defeated him. I know he also considered Senators BRICKER, BRIDGES, DIRKSEN, MILLIKIN, BUTLER, and FERGUSON his close teammates. I know particularly that he was grateful for the loyalty that BRIDGES showed him during the majority leadership contest. The team that TAFT trusted and respected—Eisenhower, Bridges, Joe Martin, Knowland, Ferguson, Bricker, and Dirksen—will carry on.

He had profound respect for his Democratic colleagues like Senators ELLIOTT and LYNDON JOHNSON, GEORGE and BYRD, and a devoted friendship to his former colleague, Senator BREWSTER.

Once a friend of BOB TAFT, you remained a friend. He was indeed proud and grateful for the loyalty of my own State, Illinois, and never failed to emphasize his appreciation for Senator DIRKSEN's friendship and courage.

Many books will be written about TAFT, but his life can be summed up like this: TAFT did more than any other man in this century to preserve our way of life—truly a great servant of the people.

#### EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESS ON KLEIN'S TRIBUTE

I will quote only a few paragraphs from the Nation's Press that recorded General Klein's call on our illustrious late leader:

New York Times, Saturday, August 1, 1953:

Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, of the Illinois National Guard, a past national commander of the Jewish War Veterans, and a TAFT delegate at last year's Republican national

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convention, was at the hospital when the Senator died.

He told reporters he had visited Mr. TAFT 10 days ago and had thought "he did not appear ill at all, either mentally or physically, even though he knew death was near." He went to the hospital again Thursday and then returned to his Chicago home, but flew back here when he heard the Senator's condition had become critical.

The New York Daily Mirror of Saturday, August 1, 1953:

Also near TAFT's bedside when death came were Jack Martin, his administrative assistant, and Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, of Chicago, who was assistant floor manager at the Republican convention last summer when TAFT made his last bid to follow in his father's footsteps to the White House.

The Chicago Tribune of Saturday, August 1, 1953:

Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, Chicago public relations consultant, stated at the New York City hospital, "Just like Lincoln, Taft now belongs to the ages." I join millions of other Americans in their sorrow over the loss of one of their greatest leaders. The death of Senator TAFT is a loss to the Western World. His guidance and counsel will be sorely missed in the development of policy and strategy to cope with the Kremlin.

When Governor Stratton reinstated General Klein, after he was deactivated by former Governor Stevenson because Klein defended MacArthur, Senator TAFT, always mindful of consideration for fairness and justice, congratulated Governor Stratton who was, incidentally, one of TAFT's most loyal friends and supporters. And TAFT wired Klein:

Congratulations to you. It is indeed a tribute to you and a rebuke to those who tried to discredit you.

ROBERT A. TAFT.

#### TAFT'S PRAISE OF KLEIN'S CAMPAIGNING

And when the political campaign was over in which Klein played an important

part, Senator TAFT wrote a letter as follows:

DEAR JULIUS: Now that the campaign is over, I wish to say how grateful I am for the work which you did for me during the campaign. Your work was effective in every field where you operated, and I don't believe you undertook a single job which you did not carry through with success.

I shall be glad to testify to anyone regarding your exceptional qualifications as a campaigner.

With kindest regards,  
Sincerely yours,

ROBERT TAFT.

I am adding this personal touch to show that Senator TAFT was most considerate of his friends and supporters, just as he was most respectful to his opponents. He loved the rugged Middle West. He loved the Prairie State of Illinois. He urged his friends and close campaign managers—and that included Julius Klein of Chicago—to show the same loyalty and enthusiasms for the election and administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower. And his followers fought for Eisenhower like they fought for BOB TAFT.

#### A SACRED MEMORY

I am sure that as long as Julius Klein lives, he will treasure the sacred but sad moment that he was at the New York hospital the minute the good Lord took BOB TAFT away from us.

Bob and Martha Taft's four wonderful sons and Jack Martin, his able and faithful aide, were at the bedside as America, and the democratic world, watched this great immortal son of America depart. And so, we say, as General Klein said at the New York hospital a minute after the great BOB TAFT passed on, "Now, like Abraham Lincoln, BOB TAFT belongs to the ages."

And so it will be.

**The New York Times**

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

*"All the News That's Fit to Print"*

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1935

Published Every Day in the Year by  
**THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY**ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER  
President and PublisherJULIUS OCHS ADLER  
Vice President and General ManagerGODFREY N. NELSON  
Secretary**FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1954.****ILLINOIS PRIMARY**

The Republicans of Illinois have now selected the man to represent them in the Senatorial election next November. He is Joseph T. Meek, president of the State Federation of Retail Associations. His opponent on the Democratic ticket will be Senator Paul H. Douglas.

The 850,000 Republican voters who took part in the primary had the choice of nine candidates. One of them described himself as a "Taft-MacArthur" Republican, Another called himself an "Abraham Lincoln" Republican. We are not sure whether there were any "McKinley" Republicans, but there might well have been. There was an "Eisenhower" Republican. One candidate inserted "America First" in his name. Another campaigned on his experience as president of Lions International, and still another based his Senatorial platform on more aid to the handicapped. Altogether quite a primary, notable both for the picturesqueness of the candidates and the apathy of the voters.

And what about the winner? Mr. Meek is described as a supporter of the junior Senator from the neighboring state of Wisconsin. He is all for the Bricker amendment or the equivalent thereof. He is against foreign aid. In other words, he apparently represents just about everything that the head of his party doesn't represent, or vice versa. And yet here he is, nominated as the official G. O. P. candidate with a margin of more than 100,000 votes over his nearest rival.

Senator Douglas says "I will support President Eisenhower when I believe him to be correct as in most phases of his foreign policy." Since it is difficult to imagine Mr. Meek believing very often that Mr. Eisenhower could be correct, perhaps a good many Republicans in Illinois who helped elect Mr. Eisenhower as President in 1952 will find themselves voting for Mr. Douglas as Senator in 1954.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1954.

**Letters to The Times****Primaries in Illinois****True Taft Republicanism Said to Be  
Very Much Alive in State**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Arriving in New York, where I have a branch of my company, I read with great interest your editorial which appeared on April 16 entitled "Illinois Primary." I have been an admirer of the fine unbiased news policy of The New York Times for years.

Your paper has been read by my family in Chicago for generations. I regret you did not give an accurate picture of the primaries in your editorial. There was no candidate running as a Taft-MacArthur Republican, Lincoln Republican or any probable McKinley Republican, as you stated. I am the only candidate who campaigned as a Taft Republican pledged to aid President Eisenhower as Senator Taft did. Having served under the distinguished soldier and statesman General MacArthur, and knowing his outstanding experience, I suggested, in my speeches, that President Eisenhower confer with MacArthur on the Indo-China problem. (They did confer two weeks ago.)

**Enduring Principles**

My campaign slogan was: "I learned my politics from Bob Taft and my fighting from Douglas MacArthur." I am proud to have campaigned as the only Taft Republican. There is nothing wrong with that. The principles of Gen. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who advocated friendly relations with all nations and entangling alliances with none, are as much alive today as the principles of Abraham Lincoln, our first champion for civil rights. (Of course, I strongly supported NATO and economic aid to the friendly nations.) So are the principles of Taft alive.

No one misses Taft more than Ike, and I am proud to have been one of Senator Taft's closest friends and disciples. I was at the New York Hospital when he died and told your reporter, "Bob Taft, like Lincoln, belongs to the ages."

I was a Taft delegate to the last National Republican Convention. I took issue with McCarthy during this present campaign and denounced his tactics in attacking the Army and that gallant soldier, my comrade, General Zwicker. On the other hand, I stated that fighting communism is not a Republican or Democratic issue but is the duty of all good Americans—and I don't want to see our anti-Communist campaign turned into a "Hate McCarthy" campaign.

I advocated civil rights, including F. E. P. C. I retained my membership in the American Federation of Labor and was opposed by the special interests and Republican machine.

I opposed Joseph T. Meek on most of the issues which are described in your editorial. I am very proud of my campaign. Illinois Taft Republicans are honest and sincere and true liberal Republicans. And I am also proud to have carried that fight for my party.

**Lightest Vote**

I think it is only fair to your readers throughout the nation that you give a true picture of the Illinois primary. It was the lightest primary vote in the history of Illinois. People were confused. And I am sure that if more than 3,000,000 eligible Republican voters would have gone to the polls instead of less than 800,000, you would have seen that Illinois is still loyal to Taft Republicanism, which I am sure is the philosophy of our great President Eisenhower. I only suggest that you read your own editorial of tribute about Senator Taft when he died.

The two political machines backed my opponents. The powerful Chicago newspapers did likewise. I am sorry that you permitted ridicule and sarcasm to be part of your editorial, as we Republicans of Illinois are very proud of our heritage and our contribution to our nation, state and party. Future elections will prove that again.

I assure you that in spite of my honorable defeat, true Taft Republicanism is very much alive in Illinois and in the nation and therefore Illinois will remain in the Republican column next fall to uphold the Taft-Eisenhower Republican principles.

JULIUS KLEIN.

New York, April 18, 1954.